(b) whether after conducting techno-feasibility study at the defence airstrips in Chennai recently, the Civil Aviation Ministry moved to extend the concept of airstrips across the country;

(c) whether the Ministry of Defence agreed to the proposal made by Civil Aviation Ministry; and

(d) if so, by what time final decision will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Some of the defence airfields are already being used for civil operations. Opening of the other defence airfields for civil operations is considered by Government as and when any such proposal is received, on a case to basis, keeping in view the operational requirements of the defence forces.

(b) to (d) No such study has been conducted by Airports Authority of India/Ministry of Civil Aviation in this regard.

Adequacy of maritime security

3893. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the maritime security is sufficient to protect offshore oil and gas blocks etc., in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to raise the manpower strength of the offshore Defence Advisory Group of the Indian Navy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) India's coastal waters are guarded by the Indian Coast Guard and the Indian Navy in coordination with the State Police. India's strategic and economic interests in Indian Ocean Region are well protected and the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard are geared into ensuring the safety of India's maritime interests.

The security and surveillance apparatus in India's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone have been enhanced substantially over the years. The improvement of such an apparatus, based on left needs, is an ongoing process.

Army officers involved in replaing kerosene and diesel with water in J&K

3894. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that senior Army officers including Brig. and Lt. Col. alongwith others have been recently chargesheetd by the J&K Police for allegedly replacing kerosene and diesel in tankers meant for troops inSiachen with water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that these officials have not been tried by the Army and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) A solitary incident came